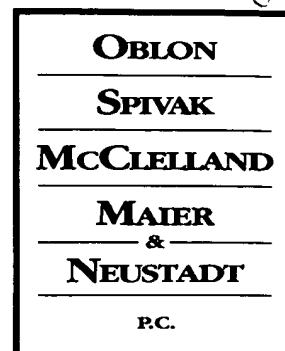




Docket No.: 249494US26

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

STEVEN P. WEIHRUCH
(703) 413-3000
SWEIHRUCH@OBLON.COM

PHILIP J. HOFFMANN
(703) 413-3000
PHOFFMANN@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/796,116
Applicants: Tamotsu MORIMOTO, et al.
Filing Date: March 10, 2004
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PLASMA
PROCESSING
Group Art Unit: 1763
Examiner: CROWELL, Anna M.

SIR:

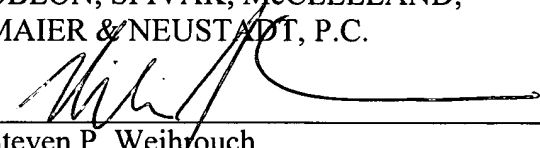
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Steven P. Weihrouch
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)
I:\ATTYLS\249494US\249494US-CVRLTR.DOC

Philip Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

DOCKET NO: 249494US26



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAMOTSU MORIMOTO, ET AL. : EXAMINER: CROWELL, ANNA M.
SERIAL NO: 10/796,116 :
FILED: MARCH 10, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1763
FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR :
PLASMA PROCESSING

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed February 1, 2006, Applicants provisionally elect, *with traverse*, Group II (Claims 7-11, listed by the Examiner as drawn to an apparatus), for further examination on the merits in the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, an action on Claims 1-11 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
PJH/LS:pch

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

I:\ATTY\LS\24s\249494US\249494US-RESTRICTION RESPONSE.DOC